

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 /013 R

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----- 097870 /60

O 222122Z DEC 76  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: EXCERPT FROM AMBASSADOR SCRANTON'S PRESS CON-  
FERENCE 12/21/76

1. WASHINGTON POST HAS PHOTO OF GOVERNOR SCRANTON ON  
PAGE TWO TODAY WITH FOLLOWING CAPTION:

QUOTE - ANTICIPATING TROUBLE--U.N. AMBASSADOR WILLIAM  
SCRANTON SAID YESTERDAY THAT OPPOSITION IS GROWING IN  
THE UNITED STATES TO A NEW TREATY ON THE PANAMA CANAL.  
IN A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE UNITED NATIONS, SCRANTON  
SAID IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO HAVE SUCH A TREATY RATIFIED  
BY THE SENATE. UNQUOTE

2. FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT FROM PRESS CON-  
FERENCE:

QUESTION - BOTH PARTIES IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE A SIMILAR  
POLICY IN CONNECTION WITH NOT GRANTING SOVEREIGNTY TO  
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PANAMA ON THE CANAL. IT WAS A BIG CAMPAIGN ISSUE, PARTI-  
CULARLY IN THE SOUTH. HOW DO YOU SEE THAT, AS YOU SAY, A  
SCENARIO EVOLVING FROM YOUR PARTISAN POLITICAL STANDPOINT?

ANSWER - WELL, AS I EXPRESSED TO FOREIGN MINISTER BOYD ON  
MANY OCCASIONS, I'M GETTING SOMEWHAT WORRIED ABOUT THE

OUTCOME OF THE TREATY WITH PANAMA. I AM VERY HOPEFUL  
THAT WE COULD HAVE SUCH A TREATY, AND AS YOU KNOW I THINK  
THERE IS SOME VERY GOOD CHANCE OF ACTUALLY WORKING OUT  
THE FINAL NEGOTIATIONS SOME TIME IN 1977. THE SOONER THE  
BETTER IN MY JUDGMENT. WHAT IS WORRYING ME IS THAT IN  
THE COURSE OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS THE FEELING INTERNALLY  
IN THE US MAY BE STRENGTHENING IN OPPOSITION TO SUCH A  
TREATY AND THAT IT MAY BE VERY DIFFICULT TO HAVE IT RATI-  
FIED BY THE SENATE. THIS IS BECOMING, IF IT WASN'T  
ALWAYS, A MAJOR FACTOR AND ONE WHICH WE MUST CONTEND WITH  
AND TRY AND GET A TREATY ARRANGED THAT CAN GET THROUGH  
THE SENATE. I SINCERELY HOPE WE CAN.  
ROBINSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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